18. Prohibition of Cow-slaughter.

MR. C. NARAYANA BHATTATIRI (*Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla*) prayed that the Government should, in consideration of the following facts, prohibit by law the slaughter of cows within the State. The killing of a cow was a great sin in the eyes of the Hindu. Cows, which provide manure for the fields and give oxen for the plough, deserved special protection in this essentially agricultural country. Milk being an almost indispensable article of human food, even selfishness should dictate a policy of cow-protection in order that an adequate, pure and cheap supply might be ensured. Cattle were formerly more prized than land and the cow had always been held as specially sacred. It was not proper to kill or permit the killing of such a useful animal as the cow. It was to be regretted that, in this State, where there was a law to prevent cruelty to animals, cows were allowed to be butchered for use as food. Cow-slaughter had been prohibited even in a non-Hindu State like Hyderabad; and Travancore should at least follow where other Indian States had led.

DEWAN: I can understand the repugnance to the practice of cow-slaughter felt by a certain section of the people. This is a matter which people should voluntarily refrain from as a result of enlightenment. One accustomed to slaughter of animals will feel that the matter is not quite so simple. It is not purely a matter of sentiment alone. It is a matter which involves very complicated issues; cows are slaughtered by the members of many communities in the land and it is not in the opinion of the Government a matter in which they can interfere by enacting a law. The question was examined very carefully in its different aspects by the Legislative Council when a resolution for the prohibition of cow-slaughter was brought forward. After a lengthy discussion, the resolution was thrown out.

---

19. Cattle Trespass.

MR. J. R. VINCENT (*Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association*) represented that, for a considerable time past, the members of his Association had been suffering from the damage done to crops by herds of untended cattle and goats. Government had latterly established a cattle pound and opened a grazing ground. Those measures were not giving adequate relief as it was impossible to drive herds of cattle and goats to the long distances necessary to have them impounded and as the fines inflicted on owners of straying cattle were too small to have any deterrent effect. The member therefore requested the Government to give power to the District Magistrates to authorise the owners of estates to open and maintain cattle pounds at their own cost, and also to enhance the amount of fines leviable. The grazing ground contained a strong growth of jungle and it was necessary to arrange for the jungle trees and undergrowth being cut down twice a year for three or four years until grazing grass had grown. The damage done by trespassing cattle to valuable grafted rubber plants was enormous and the Government should help in removing the grievance.

DEWAN: The District Magistrate of Devicolam, who had been asked to report on this matter on the complaint of the Mundakayam Planters' Association, has brought to the notice of Government that there is necessity for opening one more catte pound in the locality as the existing pounds in Mundakayam are situated at great distances and that the rates of fine should be doubled. The District Magistrate has been asked to forward a sketch showing the position of the existing pound and the localities in which the additional pound should be located and also to give an estimate of cost of the new pound. You want the Government to give you powers to open pounds on your estates and levy fines. That is a somewhat different question.

MEMBER: Whenever I said fines, what I naturally meant was the amount payable now by owners of cattle. Some had to pay 4 annas per head. That is not in a way difficult and 8 annas as indicated by the legislature is quite sufficient.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly